

**Faculty Athletics Representatives Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25, 2007**  
**Lock Haven University**  
**Lock Haven, PA**

Participants: Dr. Robert C. Ziegenfus, Chair (Kutztown), Dr. Paul C. Ballat (Lock Haven); Dr. Robert Maris (Mansfield); Dr. Kevin Roth (Clarion); Dr. William Biddington (California); Dr. Kurt Fuellhart (Shippensburg); Ms. Amy Badorf (Indiana); Dr. Brian Crow (Slippery Rock); Dr. Reginald Nealy (West Chester); Dr. Steven Hughes (Cheyney); Dr. Tim Knoster (Bloomsburg).

**Agenda Items and Discussion:**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Announcements
  - a. PSAC Meetings, Dixon Center, May 15, 2007 (FARs at 8:30 AM on May 15)
  - b. FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium, Baltimore, MD November 8-10, 2007
3. DII FAR Enhancement Program – DII FAR Fellows Institute, October 2007  
Dr. Ziegenfus serves on the Project Steering Committee for this program initiated by Dr. Diane Husic while she was FAR at East Stroudsburg University. The first DII FAR Fellows Institute was held in Indianapolis in October 2005 with Dr. Ziegenfus representing the PSAC. Dr. Fuellhart was the PSAC representative for the second Institute in October of 2006. He recommended attendance as an excellent method for networking and learning more about the varied roles of the FAR throughout DII.
4. Advisory Council Controversial Items – Dr. Ballat indicated that the Council addressed 11 items in its Fall conference call. Only one item was considered controversial, but it does not involve any of the traditional FAR concerns.
5. Role of Male Practice Players in the PSAC – Dr. Nealy requested this item be placed on the agenda. He indicated that it had become a topic of discussion at West Chester. The net result was that the Athletic Advancement Board decided that the University will not use male practice players for three reasons: 1) it limits practice time for female players; 2) it may encourage female players to leave the team if they are not getting what they consider to be sufficient playing and/or practice time; and 3) it raises questions about how the male players should be counted for squad size and other related concerns. Dr. Ziegenfus noted that the issue has come to the attention of the DII Management Council, and that body has instituted a survey to obtain data on the usage of male practice players as a prelude to possible legislation.
6. Slippery Rock University Title IX and the Law – Dr. Crow volunteered to provide an update to the action taken by the University in January 2006 to drop three women's sports (among others) and the subsequent lawsuit to prevent same. The Women's Law Project sued the University on behalf of the women's swimming, water polo, and field hockey teams, and was granted a temporary injunction. The University must now

demonstrate it is in compliance with the proportionality test without these three sports in order to have the injunction lifted and proceed to drop the sports.

7. Soccer Crossover Games and Missed Class Time – Dr. Biddington asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. The discussion on this item occurred directly with Mr. Murray. Therefore, the details of the discussion appear below under that heading.
8. PSAC Admission Policy for Basketball Championships – Dr. Glenn of Millersville University asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. He was unable to attend the meeting. His concern was that non-student adults must pay \$14 for the two final four games on Friday and the final on Saturday, and while that is reasonable for three games, some pay that amount for one game in the event their team loses. Dr. Glenn was curious why the PSAC could not simply charge a fixed amount per game. Mr. Murray's answer was that it is a financial matter; for the PSAC to be able to hold the playoffs in their current form requires substantial revenue from tickets.
9. Master Calendar for FAR Meetings – Dr. Knoster questioned whether there was a mechanism to publicize FAR meetings that occur throughout the academic year. Dr. Ziegenfus indicated that this will be part of the soon-to-be-unveiled revised Faculty Athletics Representative Association (FARA) website. As a member of the FARA Executive Committee, Dr. Ziegenfus has been working on this revision with a consultant.
10. FAR Pages on the PSAC Website – Dr. Biddington and Dr. Ziegenfus have raised the issue of adding an FAR component to the PSAC website. A preliminary discussion with the Conference office has revealed that this should be possible with minimal time and effort. The FAR portion would list dates for FARA and NCAA meetings and contact information for each FAR in the Conference. Suggestions for other entries are welcome.
11. Academic Support for Student Athletes – Dr. Ziegenfus raised the matter of how the various institutions provide academic support for athletes. The ensuing discussion revealed that a variety of approaches are used across the Conference. Only three universities specifically use a faculty line for the position. The others range from part-time to full-time, from graduate assistants to volunteers.
12. Rules Education for FARs and Coaches – Dr. Ziegenfus printed the statistics for the secondary violations in DII on the reverse side of the agenda. Recruiting and eligibility issues dominated. This prompted the question of how rules education is conducted by the universities. The unanimous answer was that this concern is handled by the Compliance Coordinator.
13. Feedback from NCAA Compliance Review Process – There were no comments from the group.
14. Other

- a. Dr. Ziegenfus distributed a color copy of the draft website he has created based on the “Best Practices” document he has been developing as an outgrowth of the DII FAR Fellows Institute in 2005. He encouraged everyone to provide him with feedback on any additional topics to be included as well as comments about the web pages.
- b. Dr. Hughes indicated that his President has asked him to investigate diversity issues in coaching and other athletics positions. He will provide an update in the Fall.

15. Conference Issues with Mr. Steve Murray

- a. Soccer Crossover Scheduling Options – In response to concerns expressed by a number of FARs, Mr. Murray indicated that it is the most difficult sport to schedule. This is partially due to the problem created by having 9 universities that sponsor men and 13 that sponsor women. The result is a different scheduling scheme for each. Unfortunately, this has generated substantial missed class time. One example that afflicted a few schools in the Fall of 2006 was that they traveled across the state during the week and to a nearby school on the weekend rather than the reverse. It was agreed that, in soccer, the missed class time is a function of the mandated league schedule. By contrast, the problem of missed class time in baseball and softball was primarily due to non- league games scheduled by some universities.
- b. Academic Success Rate – The concept is to measure true success of student-athletes. All students are counted, including transfers that are not counted toward an institution’s success by the NCAA. The ASR is to be sport-specific. Each institution has to go back six year’s to obtain a current ASR. All indications are that the PSAC will be first or second for those conferences that contain mostly public institutions.
- c. DII Management Council – Mr. Murray explained that the current PSAC representative on the Council is in a term that ends in January of 2008. Therefore, the Conference office must nominate an Athletic Director, a Senior Women’s Administrator, and an FAR. He asked that the FARs submit suggestions to his office. Dr. Ziegenfus volunteered as did Dr. Fuellhart.
- d. SAAC Sportsmanship Initiative – Mr. Murray reported that the Conference SAAC is drafting language to appear on a banner that will be distributed to each PSAC school. Further, they are trying to create a pre-game ritual for each sport that displays sportsmanship, somewhat like the existing scheme in volleyball and wrestling. When asked what the FAR role might be to aid this initiative, Mr. Murray recommended that we encourage additional conversation about these concepts on each of our campuses.
- e. DII Strategic Positioning and Community Engagement Initiatives – The Strategic Positioning legislation that was approved at the January 2007 NCAA Convention stemmed from the various surveys and other sources of information that

suggested that the public (and others) saw DII as the division of transition, rather than a destination. Now it will become a DII priority. Details about the concept will be the subject of a DII meeting in April, and this information will be presented to the PSAC institutions during the May meetings at the Dixon Center. By contrast with the Strategic Positioning Initiative, the Community Engagement Initiative is conducted at the institutional level. But the Conference will hold the members accountable with oversight by the President's Council. One concern that we as FARs should recognize is the potential additional time demands that may be placed on student-athletes who participate in these activities. Those interested in more information about both of these initiatives is directed to the handouts provided by Mr. Murray.

- f. Membership in the Conference – The small number of PSAC schools that sponsor golf and tennis jeopardizes the opportunity to compete for a DII championship. Discussions were held with Tiffin University (Ohio) to join the PSAC for competition in golf and tennis, but they chose to join the Great Lakes Conference. An offer to join the PSAC will be extended to Gannon and Mercyhurst.
16. Recommendations for Advisory Council –
- a. The FARs propose that a missed class time survey be conducted for the men's and women's soccer schedule in the Fall of 2007. This survey is to be conducted in the same manner as the previous survey completed for baseball and softball.